

## Public Transportation Committee Minutes

12/9/09

Present: John Norton, Alex Ghiselin, Jim Nash, David Elvin of PVPC, Jamin Carroll of VATCO, Laura Hanson of DPW, Leslie Stein

1. Public Comment: Terry Forrest, a member of the MRC Statewide Transportation Task Force spoke about the need to post transportation options on the city website, including the paratransit service available to students on the UMass campus.
2. Minutes of 9/8/09: approved. The committee noted that the 10/14/09 was cancelled as members attended the joint meeting of the Committee on Disabilities to discuss issues about snow and ice removal, and the 11/4/09 meeting was also cancelled due to limited attendance.
3. Decision on Florence bus stops: Jamin Carroll and Laura Hanson will have parking signs removed and replaced by PVTA bus signs.
4. Status of Changes to Route 44: Jamin Carroll reported that the changes to the route have been very positive with few complaints.
5. Service changes to Route 42: Jamin Carroll reported that the changes to the route have been good, with on time performance and more passengers to the Charter school in the morning.
6. Status of installation of bus stop signs: Jamin Carroll reported that 5 of 10 signs have been installed on streets such as King Street and South Street.
7. Transit Goals from Sustainability Plan

Process for bus stop signage: tabled to next meeting. Laura Hanson will draft some ideas and bring them to the next meeting.

8. Old Business

Snow and ice: Laura Hanson reported that Michael Bowles has agreed to have his workers remove snow and ice from bus stops and fire hydrants downtown. They work on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. She also discussed the use of CDBG monies for snow removal for seniors with Patricia Shaughnessy. Jim Nash reported some progress downtown as the BID has now hired people to shovel sidewalks. He also said that the COD plans to meet next week to review the results of the snow removal and issues from the first storm. Jim pointed out that the Police want to be notified if there are sidewalks that have not been cleared

after 24 hours. Jamin Carroll noted that the Sheldon Field bus stop was shoveled out but no one knew who was responsible. Leslie Stein said that she will check with Mayor Higgins about any current snow and ice policies.

## 9. New Business

2010 schedule for Public Transportation Committee meetings approved. Leslie Stein will file the schedule with the City Clerk. Jamin Carroll noted that the schedule is already posted on the buses.

Laura Hanson reported that the DPW will be paving Conz Street next year and are looking at traffic calming issues. Possible options include a raised crosswalk near the Senior Center and/or Salvo House with consideration given to appropriate drainage. A neighborhood meeting will be scheduled in the early Spring to discuss the project design and gain input from the community.

David Elvin reported that the turnout for the PVRTA public forum was sparse. He said that a rider survey was completed in Hampshire County and that he would bring the results to our January meeting.

Jamin Carroll reported that they have had requests from passengers to be dropped off at the back door of the Senior Center so they do not have to climb over the snow banks from the Salvo house. They would make a simple change in the bus route to accommodate those passengers. Jim Nash will discuss this change with Patricia Shaughnessy at the Senior Center.